



American
Red Cross
of Merrimack Valley
www.arcmv.org
177 Ward Hill Avenue
Ward Hill, MA 01835

Armed Forces Emergency Services Committee

Military Family Support Group



Mission Statement: The American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services Committee (AFES) has a mission to help family members and loved ones of our armed forces personnel. Red Cross workers support not only active duty military, Reserve and National Guard service members but their families as well, through emergency communications, access to financial assistance, counseling and a variety of other services such as support groups.

The AFES Military Family Support Group will offer a place for the families to come together and be with people who are going through the same situations they are. The Merrimack Valley Red Cross is committed to helping families meet the challenges of military life, especially families related to community-based military personnel, who may feel more isolated and disconnected than those of active duty service men and women. This family support group serves a number of important functions. For example:

- * Help families communicate with each other and the military, providing group members a chance to ask questions and express ideas and concerns.
- * Enable members to share their feelings and emotions about loved ones who may be on deployment.
- * Provide a forum where people who understand military life have the opportunity to become a source of strength and comfort to others. More importantly, family support groups can prepare families for mobilization or deployment, helping to ensure that all arrangements are complete. During mobilization or deployment, family support groups and the military work together to help families get the information and support they need. Family support groups may consist of:

- * Spouses, children and Parents.
- * Friends and relatives.
- * Members of the community who want to help military personnel.
- * Boyfriends and girlfriends.
- * Retired military from all branches.

It's important to keep in mind that our family support group is a voluntary organization that determines its own goals and activities. This support group should plan its meetings and activities based on what best suits its needs.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from 7:00P.M. to 8:30 P.M. at the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center on 10 Reed Street Haverhill, MA 01832.

For additional information please call Debra Duxbury at (978) 372-6871